

An aerial photograph of a village built on a hillside. The houses are mostly white with flat roofs, some with reddish-brown roofs. The village is surrounded by dry, rocky terrain with some green shrubs. In the background, there are large, hazy mountains under a clear sky. A red vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

Pakistan's Merged Areas A Tribal Society on its Way to Local Governance

A Glance into the Photographic Archive of the FATA Development Programme



Pakistan's Merged Areas

A Tribal Society

on its Way to Local Governance

A Glance into the Photographic Archive of the FATA Development Programme

Exhibition presented
from November 27 to December 12, 2021
at the Peshawar Museum

Curator
Peer Gatter

Photographs by Alamgir Khan,
Abdul Majeed Goraya and others

Contributors
Riaz Karim Khan, Palwasha Kakakhel,
Stéphane Herbert

Village Tales	19
Trades and Sociability	41
Water, Infrastructure, Industry	67
Conflict and Dialogue	87
On the Way to Local Governance	101
Independent Reporting	109
Women Empowerment	115
Improving Education	121
Health Care for the Countryside	141
Faces of the Future	149

Dear readers,

This year, Pakistan and Germany celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations. This year is also the 60th anniversary since the start of formal development cooperation. Pakistan was among Germany's first development partners when the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) was founded in 1961. Since then, the two countries have embarked on countless development initiatives and over the decades have continuously aligned this cooperation to new challenges and changing social, economic, and environmental frameworks. To date, Germany has invested around 3.5 billion Euro in its development partnership with Pakistan. The Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one of the focus regions of this cooperation.



Bernhard Schlagheck
Ambassador of the Federal Republic
of Germany in Pakistan

The FATA Development Programme is a flagship of this successful and decade-long cooperation. This program which is implemented since 2009 by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Government is supporting Pakistan to improve the living conditions in the Merged Areas.

This exhibition at the distinguished Peshawar Museum gives an insight into this remote region that in 2018 has been merged into the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It gives a colorful insight into the rich culture, the traditions, livelihoods and the development needs of the people of the Tribal Districts. The exhibition also gives a face to people whose lives have been shaped for the most part by poverty, a lack of public services, and decades of conflict.

The FATA Development Programme supports the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in improving the living conditions in the Merged Areas, by improving the performance of public service providers especially in the field of basic education and health. From its start, the FATA-Development Programme was an example of a fruitful European cooperation in the field of development. Over the years, the programme with a budget of 40 million Euro was co-funded by the Government of France, the Government of Switzerland and, in its current third phase, by the European Union.

Germany is committed to further accompany Pakistan and the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on its challenging path to extend administrative structures to the Merged Areas and to continuously improve public service delivery in the fields of health and education and, thus, to make the FATA-Merger a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BS', written in a cursive style.

The Heritage of the Merged Areas

The Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a rich culture and age-old traditions. The historical Khyber Pass was a crossing point and a gateway between Central and South Asia since time immemorial. Many civilizations and many invaders have left their footprints here, including Alexander the Great, the Gandhara civilization, Buddhist pilgrims, Central Asian hordes, Muslim armies, and last but not least, British colonial troops.

All these events and cultural encounters have also shaped today's distinct and rich tribal culture of the Merged Areas. The encounters also left important historic monuments that document this eventful and colourful past. Among them are the prehistoric caves of Sherghato Nao, the 2nd century Buddhist Sphola Stupa located in the Khyber Pass, the Ali Masjid Fort on the border with Afghanistan or the Malik Ammir Jani Mosque in North Waziristan.

It is thus also a matter of importance to the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums to make this culture visible to the greater public and to give insights into this area that has become part of the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018 through an administrative and political merger. For us, it is important to support the integration of the population of the Tribal Districts with that of the Settled Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This exhibition is a small contribution to this quest for forging a common future.

It is a pleasure for the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums to host this exhibition at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany. Pakistan and Germany do not only look back on a long mutual friendship and cooperation in the field of politics and development cooperation, but also in the field of research and archaeology. As early as 1961, a cultural agreement was signed between Pakistan and Germany to promote understanding, intellectual exchange, art and scientific work.

Over the decades this yielded fruit in many ways. One example is the joint exploration of the rock carvings of the Indus River Gorge that took its start in 1979. Researchers from both countries mapped nearly 60,000 rock carvings from seven millennia, documenting Pakistan's rich past. The latest example of these joint efforts is the renovation of Gor Khatri Caravanserai here in Peshawar.

Germany has been present with development projects in the Tribal Districts since 1989. One of these projects is the FATA Development Programme which is presenting this exhibition in our museum for the celebration of our 70 years of relations.

We do hope that this fruitful cooperation between Pakistan and Germany will also continue in the coming decades to promote academic research, cultural tourism, and awareness among the public on the importance of cultural heritage. Especially in the field of archaeology, much remains to be discovered in the Tribal Districts, with thousands of archaeological sites, dating back from stone age up to the British period. Most of these sites await scientific exploration.



Dr. Abdul Samad
Director of Archeology and Museums
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a few vertical strokes.

About this Exhibition

In media reporting, the 'Merged Areas' are associated mostly with conflict and violence. This has been deeply implanted into our minds, and it is thus difficult to make oneself an unbiased picture of the people and their lives in this marginalized region along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. The sorrows, hopes, ambitions and the unique culture of the local population rarely figure in the press. This exhibition intends to look beyond the common stereotypes and strives to give Pakistan's tribal population a voice and a face.

To foster free and unbiased reporting from the Merged Areas, the FATA Development Programme had launched in 2012 a course in Development Journalism in close cooperation with the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication of the University of Peshawar. It was addressed to students and working journalists of the Tribal Areas. A whole generation of young dedicated journalists was trained here during the past decade. Coursework included reporting on the Merged Areas' development needs and on development initiatives. Articles were circulated in the local press and in a quarterly journal published by the University of Peshawar ("*Better Life – Kha Jwand*"). Countless reportages, interviews and background analyses raised public awareness. Thousands of photos were taken to illustrate these publications, and over the years, an impressive picture library has been compiled.

Many photographers contributed to this archive. Some of them were amateurs who took spontaneous pictures to document events, others were professionals whose photos also had a high artistic value. These pictures depict people following their trades, earning their livelihoods, and struggling to provide their children with a better future. The two most prominent among these photographers are Alamgir Khan and Abdul Majeed Goraya. Their pictures also comprise the bulk of photos presented in this exhibition and its catalogue.

Alamgir Khan is a native of Mohmand District in the Merged Areas. He started off as a self-taught photographer with a mobile phone in 2010 and documented local events that were of a personal importance to him and to his tribal community. Since 2013, Alamgir Khan is working as a freelance photojournalist and has contributed to many publications in Pakistan and abroad. He is a regular contributor to the web-based news outlets *Pakistan Forward* and *Pakistan Saga*. For his photos, he has won prizes from National Geographic, UNDP and the PEAD Foundation.

Abdul Majeed Goraya is a native of Punjab. He started his career in photojournalism in 1993. He has worked for the *Pakistan Observer* and *Daily Mashriq*. Besides, he is on assignment for *Agence France-Presse* (AFP) and served for the last decade as senior photojournalist and photo editor for *Dawn*, the largest and oldest English-language newspaper in Pakistan. In 2007, he was chosen photographer of the year by the Press Photography Association of Peshawar.

Khan's and Goraya's pictures document the rich and unique heritage of this historically very important region, a heritage that the citizens of the Tribal Districts contribute to the union with the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the federation of Pakistan. This heritage weaves many new colorful threads into the already rich and diverse tapestry of this nation's culture.

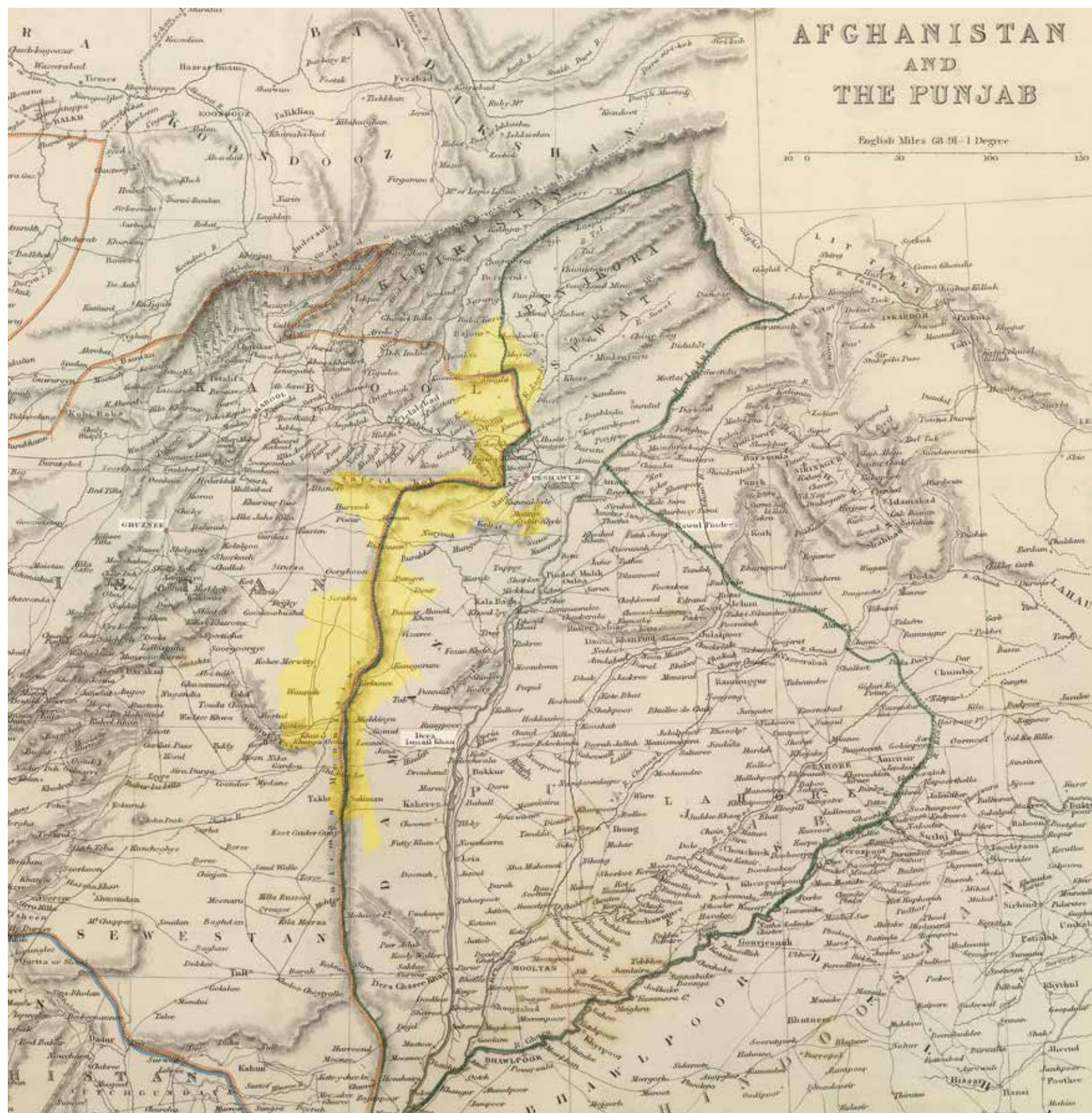


Dr. Peer Gatter
Head of the FATA Development Programme
Peshawar and Islamabad

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Peer Gatter'.







The 'Merged' or Tribal Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A brief History

Over the past three millennia, the Merged Areas saw many empires come and go. Most invaders cared little about the region's population as long as caravan travel on the southern Silk Road that lead through the Khyber Pass remained undisrupted. Taxes could hardly be levied in this rugged and hostile terrain, which was nonetheless the gateway between South and Central Asia. The Pashtun tribes and clans who lived here since time immemorial were thus able to maintain much of their traditions and customs, which are based on an age old-societal code, the Pashtunwali.

Before the area came under the influence of Islam, it was shaped by a Greco-Buddhist syncretism, that fused Indian, Persian, and Hellenistic influences. While Sindh was conquered by the Arabs as early as 711, and Islam slowly spread there under Umayyad rule, the Tribal Areas along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan were not Islamised until the India campaigns of the Turkish Ghaznavids three centuries later. With the discovery of the sea route to India and the subsequent rise of Portuguese, Dutch and English seafaring, the Khyber Pass became less and less important for the trade between South Asia and Europe. Geostrategically, the region however remained an important and often embattled borderland.

In 1600, the British East India Company was founded and slowly spread its influence across the entire Indian Subcontinent. What started as a trade venture soon became a quest for territorial expansion. In the second half of the 18th century, the British East India Company became the dominant power on the subcontinent, establishing nearly 200 years of colonial rule over the region. With the expansion of British rule into present day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, British interests soon collided with Afghan claims to the region. Three Anglo-Afghan wars were fought between 1839 and 1919 and established the present day international border. The demarcation line between the two spheres of interest was drawn straight through

the settlement areas of Pashtun tribes that lived to both sides of the Khyber Pass. The Tribal Areas came however, never fully under British rule and remained a buffer zone. With the so-called Frontier Crimes Regulation, the British established a system of indirect rule that placed political control above the rule of law and denied the tribes basic rights.

After Pakistan's independence in 1947, the Frontier Crimes Regulation remained in force and the Tribal Areas retained their semi-autonomous status with tribal power structures. When Pakistan received a new constitution in 1973, it did not apply to this region, which henceforth was called 'Federally Administered Tribal Areas' (FATA). With the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 1979, FATA increasingly became a safe area for supply and retreat by the Mujahedin. Jihadist ideology and weapons spread. The area also became a transit zone for 3 million Afghan refugees. With Operation Enduring Freedom, which ousted the Taliban regime and its al-Qaeda allies, many militants fled Afghanistan in 2001 to regroup in FATA where extremism further spread. Especially during the years 2007-2014, the local population suffered from violent conflicts and military operations which resulted not only in the destruction of social infrastructure, but also in the temporary displacement of parts of the population.

It was only in 2018 when a political reform process merged FATA with the adjacent Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and when the tribal population of these so-called 'Merged Areas' received full citizens' rights. With support of the international community, Pakistan is currently striving to bring the impoverished region on par with the rest of the country – through economic and political reform, the inclusion in decision-making processes, the extension of public services and with many other development initiatives, the FATA Development Programme being one of them.

The borderlands between historic Afghanistan and the Punjab were often embattled. J.W. Lowry's 1848 map (published at Chapman and Hall in London) shows the region during the Anglo-Sikh wars, when the border between the Sikh Empire and the Kingdom of Afghanistan ran straight through what is today the „Merged Areas“ (the approximate location of the Merged Areas has been highlighted in yellow).







The Merged Areas: In their west flanked by countless mountain ranges and valleys of the Hindukush, in the north bordered by the snowcapped peaks of the Himalaya, and in the southeast delineated by the alluvial plains of the Indus Basin (Google 2020/US Dept. of State, Geographer Image Landsat/Copernicus).

Pages 14-15:
Collecting firewood is an important sector of the Merged Areas' informal economy. Forests, however, are diminishing rapidly in the region (Baker Khel, Hassan Khel Sub-Division, formerly Peshawar Frontier Region).

Bringing Development to a Marginalized Area

The FATA Development Programme

The Merged Areas with a population of some five million people is a place where tradition meets modernity. It is at this interface that the FATA Development Programme (FDP) seeks to empower the local population, as well as civil administrations, to shape a future in self-determination. Commissioned in 2009 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the FATA Development Programme is currently in its third phase. In the past, the programme has been co-funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). At present, FDP is also implementing the European Union's multi-donor action 'Aid to Uprooted People in Pakistan' (AUP), to facilitate the reintegration of internally displaced persons in the Merged Areas, creating a favorable environment for their return. The programme's activities are spread through all Tribal Districts, with a particular focus on areas with high numbers of displaced persons, such as Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram as well as North and South Waziristan. To contribute to bridging the development gap between the Tribal Areas and the rest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the FATA Development Programme has from its start improved livelihoods of the local population through village development funds. At present, the programme has four components: Local Governance, Constructive Dialogue, Education and Health.

To support the merger of the Tribal Areas with the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FDP is improving core governance functions of newly established public administrations in the border regions with Afghanistan. With its innovative twinning concept, the programme encourages knowledge-sharing between officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's old 'Settled Districts' and the newly merged 'Tribal Districts'. FDP also supports the provincial government in drafting legal and regulatory frameworks as well as by-laws to facilitate administrative and political integration. In addition, the programme educates elected members of the Provincial Assembly about the new local government system and on their future role in a newly decentralized environment.

The FATA Development Programme further promotes a constructive dialogue between the state and civil society, and provides forums for exchange of ideas, with the aim of increasing transparency, as well as including citizens' needs and the advancement of women into local development plans and budgets. In this context, FDP trains officials and community representatives on their duties and rights regarding community development and service delivery.

In the field of education, FDP supports the integration of data from the Merged Areas and the Settled Districts into a single database, the Education Management Information System. This data is the basis for a needs-based Education Sector Plan. Education managers are trained in development planning, technical and financial monitoring, and in data analysis as well. With FDP support, some 4,400 Parent-Teacher Councils of the Merged Areas have registered as community-based organizations, which have their own bank accounts to allow the transfer of government funds for school improvement (e.g. supply of clean drinking water and construction of sanitary facilities). Council members are trained in financial management and grass-roots development planning, thereby empowering them to take community development into their own hands.

Last but not least, the FATA Development Programme improves the Health Information System at district level and promotes a data-driven public health service system. FDP also reviews the Provincial Health Sector Plan to ensure that development priorities of the Merged Areas are well reflected. Health managers are trained on budgetary and needs-based district health planning, as well as on supply chain management. Staff of health facilities are educated in primary health care and infection prevention, and Local Quality Teams are established to develop quality improvement plans for electricity and water supply, as well as for sanitation and hygiene. During the pandemic, FDP trains municipal officers and health staff in the prevention and treatment of Covid-19 and broadcasts radio live shows disseminating information on hygiene, prevention and vaccination.

Village Tales





A traditional farming village surrounded by green fields in the Orakzai District.

Irrigation is crucial in the Muhabbat Khel area of Hassan Khel Sub-Division. Despite geographically being located on the edge of the tropical region, the climate of the Merged Areas is mostly semi-arid.



Children are helping their father to plow a field. Their weight makes the plough more stable and makes it reach deeper into the soil (Ghundai Abdal Khel near Jamrud, Khyber District).



Pest control in the mountains of Upper Prang Ghar near Balola village, Mohmand District. The sandy soils are very suitable for growing tomatoes and onions. Only about 8 percent of the Merged Areas' land is cultivable.





Farmers harvesting wheat near Michani in Lower Mohmand.

A farmer transports fodder on the edge of the Indus basin in Darzinda.
The former Frontier Region is now a sub-division of Dera Ismail Khan District.



A proud young farmer presents his harvest of radishes in the plains of Bajaur District.

A girl collecting twigs and fallen leaves as kindling for cooking or heating, as gas and electricity supply are still lacking in many rural communities of the Tribal Areas (Dara village, Pindiali Tehsil, Mohmand District).







Farmers taking their breakfast after early morning fieldwork in the Jina Khuwar area of Hassan Khel Sub-Division.

A boy driving two oxen to keep the water running in the irrigation system of Halki Gandhab, Ekka Ghund Tehsil of Mohmand District.





Fort-like adobe highrise structures in Bibi Khel village in Peshawar Frontier Region (today Sub-Division Hassan Khel). These traditional towers surround the so-called Hujra, the gathering place of the clan's men. They overlook the countryside and have defense purpose.

In Ghundai Abdalkhel near Jamrud, the age-old art of building traditional mud walls is passed on from one generation to the next (Khyber District).



At the well near Ghallanai in Halim Zai Tehsil.

Women returning from the fields in Mullah Bagh, a day's walk to the northeast of Parachinar, Kurram District.





From an early age children contribute to the livelihood of their families in the Merged Areas. A young boy manages a mobile village shop, selling toys, bangles and sweets.







A remote mountain village in the Mullah Bagh area of Kurram District. The roofs serve as terraces, where fodder is dried and firewood is stored. A small gate on the lower left and the high walls of the lower houses protect the settlement from unsolicited intruders.

Coming home from running errands. A boy on the road in the Prang Ghar area of Mohmand District.





With the return of peace, the persimmon business is thriving once again in Sroo Kali village (Ekka Ghund Tehsil of Mohmand District).

A seller arranging fruit in his makeshift shop at Sakhi Pul. Products of the Merged Areas are sold at the border of Khyber District with Peshawar.

Trades and Sociability





Interlaced adobe dwellings. A skydive into the Durbakhel settlement of Halim Zai Tehsil, Mohmand District.

A busy street in one of the many small towns of the Merged Areas. In 2014, the FATA Development Programme held a photography competition on livelihoods among young creatives of the Tribal Areas. This was one of the winning pictures.

تاج ڈرائی فروٹ اینڈ میمریٹ



تاج ڈرائی فروٹ



Waiting for customers. Few can afford the expensive merchandise of this dry fruit seller along the Torkham highway leading to Afghanistan (Khyber District).

A cordwainer in the town of Nawagai making traditional sandals, the famous *Peshawari Chappal* (Bajaur District).





As day breaks, a young man is laying out so-called *Afghani Naan* for sale, freshly baked flatbread.



A craftsman putting strings on a *Rubab*, a lute-like musical instrument that has a long tradition among Pashtun tribesfolk.



The carpet industry is a main source of income in Aqrab Daag village of Mohmand. Young girls support their mothers from an early age in domestic manufacturies.





Proud of his colorful traditional cap, a headgear frequently worn by the people of the Merged Areas.

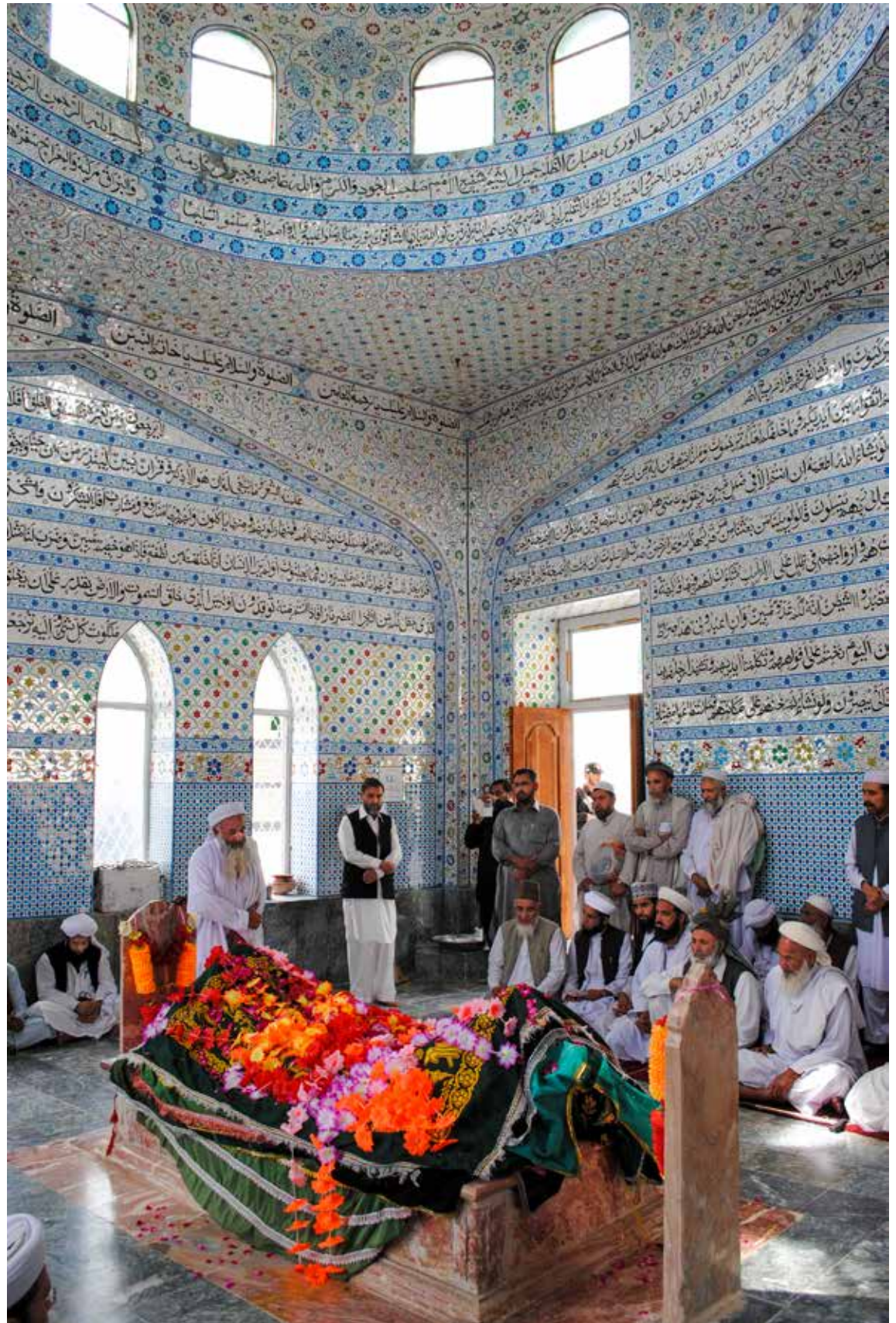




Ghallanai school children taking part in the “Billion Tree Tsunami”, initiated in 2014 by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in response to global warming (Halim Zai Tehsil, Mohmand District).

Children presenting Pashtun traditional attire at a school function in Ekka Ghund Tehsil, Mohmand District.





Religious scholars and elders are praying at the Turangzai Babaji Mosque that houses the shrine of Haji Sahib of Turangzai (1858-1937), a Pashtun freedom fighter and social worker (Safi Tehsil, Mohmand District).









"Jaloos Eid Milad un Nabi", a procession organized by the *Jamaat Ahle Sunnat* movement at Ghallanai bazar, commemorating the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (Mohmand District).

Sacrifices of sheep on occasion of the death anniversary (*Urs*) of Haji Sahib of Turangzai at Ziarat Kali (Safi Tehsil).

Page 57: Religious students at Ghallani reciting the holy Qur'an to pay tribute to members of the local security forces, who have given their lives in the fight against extremism.



Feeding the destitute at the Langar Khana canteen of Pir Sheikh Gul (Landi Kotal, Khyber District).



A roadside seller waiting for clients with his colorful merchandise.



Body builders showing off their muscles. After the end of eight years of violent conflict, the 2015 Peace Sports Gala organized by Mohmand's political administration in Ghallanai's Captain Roohullah Shaheed Sports Complex attracted thousands of curious spectators.



Sportsmen playing *Kabbadi*, a traditional contact team sport with two teams of seven players (Mohmand Sports Festival held in Chanda village, Halim Zai Tehsil).



Young women in Ekka Ghund try to pull their adversaries across the line in the popular “*Rasa Kashi*” contest (Mohmand District).

Hundreds of men swimming in a canal in Munda village to beat the afternoon heat during the holy month of Ramadan (Prang Ghar Tehsil, Mohmand District).



Water, Infrastructure, Industry





Fetching water from the spring or well is an arduous and time consuming occupation for women in the Mula Gori area of Khyber District.

Farmers digging an irrigation channel in Bajaur District.





Artisans and local laborers are busy with constructing a water tank in Jamrud, Khyber District. In its first phase, the FATA Development Programme supported communities in local development planning and basic infrastructure development.

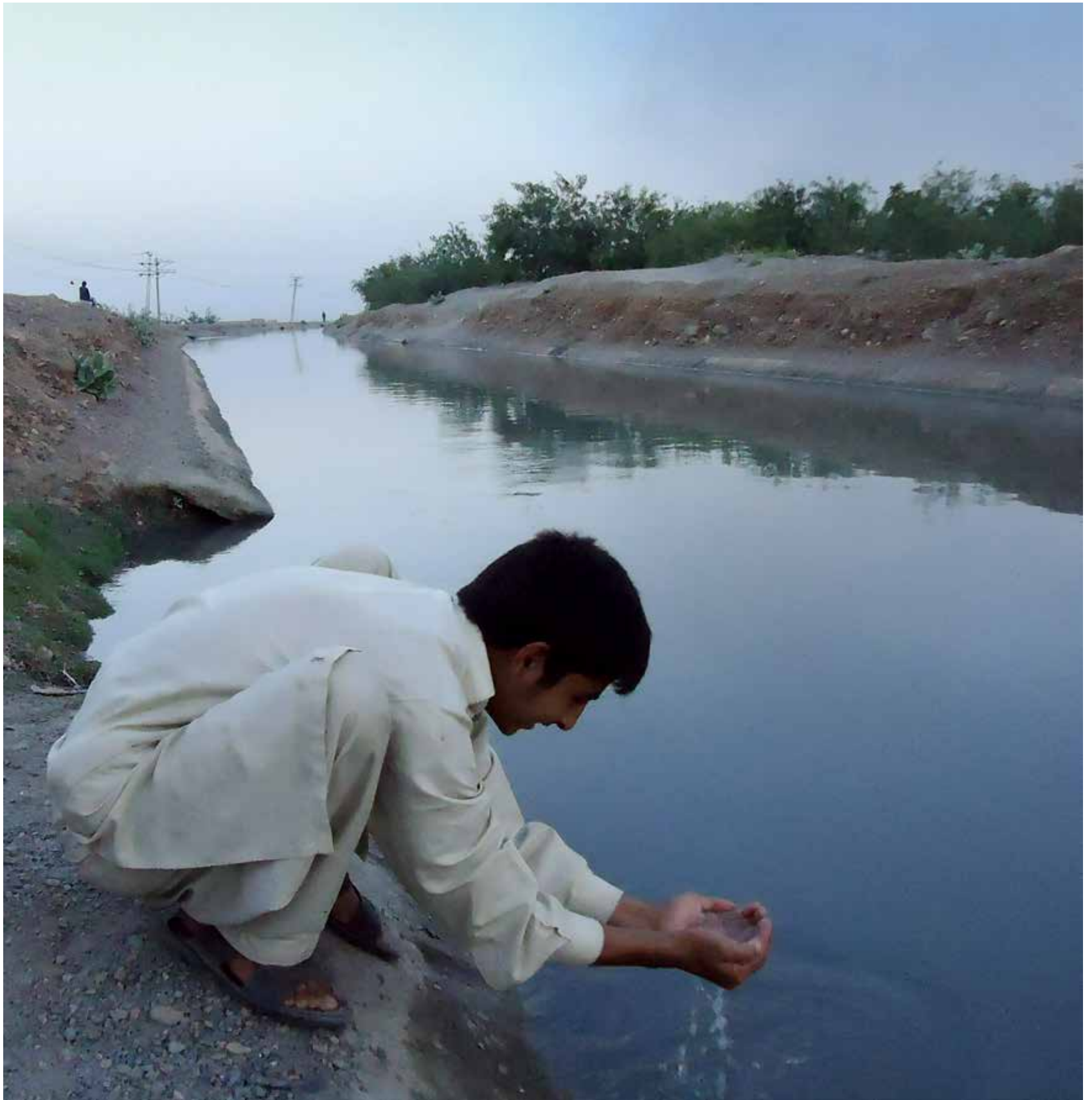
Children in Shandara village located close to the Pakistani-Afghan border are waiting to fill their pots and cans with water distributed by a tanker truck (Mohmand District).



Children exploring a newly built pump. Drinking water accessible within the village is a novelty in the Lakka Tiga area of Khyber District.

Along the border of Khyber and Peshawar districts, the Warsak Gravity Canal transports water from the Kabul River to Peshawar city. A young man of Ghundai Abdal Khel in the Jamrud area is testing the water quality.

Pages 74-75: After heavy rains, local municipal employees are removing debris from a road in Bajaur District.









As if they were part of the fanciful decorations of this colorful bus, three men of the Mulagori tribe enjoy the cool airstream during their trip to Peshawar (Mulagori, Khyber District).

Rainfall in the nearby mountains has turned a dry creek near Chanda village into a torrent. Traffic came to a halt for several hours (Halim Zai Tehsil, Mohmand).







Infrastructure in the Merged Areas is developing, but many remote areas can only be reached during the dry seasons, when rivers carry little water and can be used as roads by vehicles.

The famous Khyber Railway, connecting Peshawar with the Afghan border dates back to colonial times. In a flood during the monsoon season of 2008, several railroad bridges suffered massive damage or were washed away altogether. Since then, the route is awaiting rehabilitation. Tribal security forces inspecting the damage at Takhta Baig near Jamrud, Khyber District.





Constructing a supporting wall for the new road leading into Jina Khuwar village. In its first phase, the FATA Development Programme supported infrastructure development in the Tribal Areas (Sub-Division Hassan Khel, formerly Peshawar Frontier Region).

A growing local economy: Marble is one of the main exports of the Merged Areas and its deposits are said to be inexhaustible. In 2012, some 633,000 tons of marble were produced in the tribal region (Dorbakhel, Halim Zai Tehsil of Mohmand District).





Since the end of hostilities and the merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, construction is booming in the Tribal Areas. Especially in the vicinity of Peshawar, land prices are rising fast. A worker is “baking” cement blocks and letting them dry in the sun.

An arduous job at a Dorbakhel marble factory. Two young brothers are cleaning out the white-colored marble sludge from the recycling tank of a stone-cutting saw.

Pages 84-85: The Tribal Areas are the main transit zone for goods delivered to Afghanistan. Peace on Pakistan’s northwestern frontier is thus an important premise for sustainable development.





Conflict and Dialogue





Violent conflicts that befell the Tribal Areas during 2007-2014, as well as the 2010 flood, have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the Tribal Areas. Most of them have returned to their homes since, but in 2020 still 104,000 persons were awaiting their return. Here, a Mohmand family is dwelling in a tent amidst the ruins of their former home.

Traces of violent conflict. Armed tribesmen gather for a political event in Anyat Kali, Bajaur District.



Health workers participate in a candle vigil to protest against the killings of members of polio vaccination teams by militants (2012).



Members of the Tribal Union of Journalists and of the FATA Students' Union protest against the killings of fellow journalists.



After the ousting of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan by an international coalition in 2001, hopes for a peaceful future led many Afghan refugees to return home. Women and children were awaited by busses and trucks on the outskirts of Parachinar city (Kurram District) that brought them back across the border in 2005.



Donation of bread to those in need during the fasting month of Ramadan.



A grand *Jirga* organized by Ghallanai elders attracts young and old to discuss community grievances until a common position and solutions are found (Halim Zai Tehsil, Mohmand).



A security scanner in the middle of nowhere. Levies control the access to a distribution point for aid packages for Baizai residents affected by military operations against militants in Mohmand.





A political gathering in Hashim Kali village of Pindiali Tehsil (Mohmand District). A candidate in the 2013 general elections is asking his supporters to give an oath and swear to cast their votes in his favour.

A patriarchal society: Local elders and tribal leaders (*Maliks*) gather in the Ghallanai *Jirga* hall for a traditional turban wearing ceremony.





Tribal elders discuss community issues in the Muhabat Khel area of Hassan Khel Sub-Division.

To create more awareness for mediation and development planning among local communities, the FATA Development Programme organized a grand *Jirga* with tribal elders in 2013 that was aired on local television.

On the Way to Local Governance





In 2011, the Political Parties Act of Pakistan was extended to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Prior to this, only independent candidates could run for National Assembly seats. Shown here is an election campaign of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Sheraano Kali village in 2018 (Ekka Ghund Tehsil).

Until today, only few women of the Merged Areas exercise their right to vote. Tribal women of Ekka Ghund village are participating in the 2018 general elections at a polling station designated for females.



Local decision making – local public services: A view of the newly established District Administration compound of Khwaizi Bazai in Mohmand.



After the FATA-Merger, the “Levies”, a tribal paramilitary force, were integrated into the regular police service. The Frontier Crimes Regulation, a legal system dating from colonial times, was abolished in 2018. Training the *Levies* on Pakistan’s judicial system, which has since been extended to the Merged Areas, will be crucial for a successful integration of the Tribal Areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.



Together with the Local Government Department, the FATA Development Programme is training representatives of the Merged Areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Assembly on the new local government system and on parliamentary proceedings.



After the merger, citizens of the Tribal Areas were included into the social protection systems of Pakistan. At the District Headquarter Hospital of Mohmand, health insurance cards were distributed to Ghallani residents in December 2019. In 2020 alone, more than 57 million people all over Pakistan obtained health insurance or improved health insurance with the support of the German development cooperation.

Independent Reporting





Gathering place at the communal oven for baking bread. A reporter of the Afridi tribe is interviewing fellow tribal women in the village of Zakha Khel on their perceptions of COVID-19 vaccinations (Tehsil Landi Kotal, Khyber District).

In cooperation with the University of Peshawar, Germany's FATA Development Programme initiated a course in Development Journalism for students and working journalists of the Tribal Areas. The aim was to foster free and independent reporting from this region. A whole generation of young dedicated journalists was trained here during the past decade.



Students of Development Journalism interviewing a *Tehsildar*, the head of a local administration of the FATA Secretariat (Peshawar Frontier Region, now Hassan Khel).



On assignment: Two Peshawar University students during interviews on municipal services in a tribal neighborhood.

Women Empowerment





In 2019, over a hundred women from the Merged Areas participated in the Annual Rural Women Conference. With approximately 3,000 other participants from all over Pakistan they discussed on effective participation of women in development planning.

Tribal women and staff of the FATA Development Programme at the Rural Women Conference. It is held annually by the Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) since 2008. With the support of the FATA Development Programme, the conference focused on the Merges Areas in 2019.



Community representatives of the Merged Areas at a training on local development planning organized by the FATA Development Programme in cooperation with the Institute of Management Sciences in Peshawar.



So-called “Gender Desk Officers” have been trained by the FATA Development Programme in cooperation with the Social Welfare Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and UNDP. They are working in all parts of the Merged Areas today and ensure that the needs and concerns of women are reflected in development planning for the Merged Areas. Here an awareness session in Khyber District.

Improving Education





Eager to go to school. Youngsters at Baru village of Bajaur District are lining up to enter the classroom.

Listening attentively to their teacher in times of the COVID-19 pandemic at Baru primary school.

Pages 124-125: Holding class in the schoolyard on a cold winter morning in a Bajaur high school. Not the fresh air during the pandemic is making teacher and students prefer taking class outside, but the warming beams of the sun on their backs.







From an early age students in the Merged Areas study Urdu and English. A Bajaur girl holding tight to her exercise book depicting Pakistan's founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



A seriously looking youth wearing the typical schoolboy's hat with the red rhomb. In the Wazir Kali village school basic facilities as chairs and desks are still missing (Halim Zai Tehsil, Mohmand District).



A teacher instructing his students in Baru village school.



In the girls' primary school of Kata Kushta village facilities are basic. This does not hinder the youngsters to study eagerly. Girls drop out of school at a much earlier age than boys. In 2013/2014 only 4.6 percent of girls between 14 and 15 years of age still attended school in the Tribal Areas.



In Parachinar, one of the few bigger cities of the Merged Areas, students head to their high school in the early morning (Kurram District).

Students beleaguer their teacher At Khan Akbar Kali government primary school, proudly presenting their writing exercise (Jamrud, Khyber District).





BK
The Bank of Khyber
Custodian of Rich Values
راست استعلاسی و مستعاراتی

PLS Account



The FATA Development Programme supported the Directorate of Education of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in establishing over 4,400 community-based organizations across the Merged Areas. These so-called “Parent Teacher Councils” with their more than 35,000 members foster community development. They receive funds from the provincial government to embark on small-scale infrastructure projects in and around schools. These projects support local decision making and decentralization.

Members of Parent Teacher Councils patiently waiting for their turn to register and open a bank account for their community-based organization (Ghallanai, Halim Zai Tehsil).



Members of a Parent Teacher Council in Baru primary school are discussing plans to further develop their small village school (Bajaur District).

School improvement projects include the rehabilitation of buildings, as many schools were deliberately damaged or destroyed during the years of violent conflict. Additional classrooms for girls are being built as well as boundary walls to improve security. Girls' schools are still the target of militants in parts of the Merged Areas. In addition, running water is installed and washrooms are built, as many parents are reluctant to send their daughters to school if sanitary facilities are lacking. Here, schoolboys are proudly presenting the newly built washrooms in Baru village school.







Returning from school: Following the tracks of the dysfunctional Khyber Railway, Kata Kushta village of Khyber District.

Homework at Sangar (Halim Zai Tehsil).



After school and study:
Mohmand friends ready for adventure.



The best cricket team of Anyat Kali, Bajaur District.

Health Care for the Countryside





A doctor examines women and their babies at a local Basic Health Unit in Ekka Ghund, Mohmand District.

A polio vaccination team going from door to door in Kamal Kore village of Halim Zai Tehsil. During the years of violent conflict, polio campaigns were a dangerous mission, as health workers were systematically targeted by extremists.



A training on emergency obstetric and newborn care by the FATA Development Programme for local health workers in the Merged Areas. In 2013/2014, only 26.5 percent of women in the tribal regions received qualified follow up care during the first six weeks following birth of their baby.

Mobile medical teams as here in Manzaree Cheena in the Baizai tribal area bring health care to the countryside.





A religious scholar and member of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's COVID-19 Consultative Committee shares his thoughts on the virus and the stance of Islam towards vaccinations during the "Yao Naway Safar" radio live shows organized by the FATA Development Programme.



The COVID-19 pandemic did not spare the tribal region. Students wear protective face masks when entering the classroom as their temperature is checked by their teacher.

Faces of the Future





Glancing cautiously into the future.

Baizai youngsters in Atam Kali village sitting by the roadside and attentively watching passers-by.
For the photographer they have a look that dithers between friendly curiosity and reserved scepticism.





A statue of a student between tradition and modernity was erected at Mamad Gat Cadet College. It is encouraging education in the Tribal Areas (Mohmand District).

Girls in Dor Bakhel village playing with their “*Nano*”, a young goat (Halim Zai Tehsil of Mohmand).



A little girl immersed in a radio broadcast. In the remote villages of Halim Zai Tehsil, the radio is one of the few sources of information and entertainment.

Schoolboys focused on an exercise in a Ghallanai primary school.







Swinging at Ekka Ghund.

Students at the newly built water point at Baru primary school.



"A beautiful green-eyed tribal boy"
photographer Alamgir Khan entitled this photo.



“Smiling” is the title that photographer Abdul Majeed Goraya gave this photo of two Bajaur schoolgirls.



**Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Headquarters in Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40
53113 Bonn

Phone: +49 228 44 60-0
Fax: +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn

Phone: +49 6196 79-0
Fax: +49 6196 79-11 15

E-Mail: info@giz.de
Internet: www.giz.de

Country Office in Pakistan

Level 2, Serena Business Complex,
Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy

Sector G-5/1, Islamabad
Phone: +92 (0) 51 111 489 725
Fax: +92 (0) 51 265 6376

E-Mail: giz-pakistan@giz.de
Internet: www.giz.de/pakistan

ISBN 978-3-9823448-3-6
E-book © GIZ, 2021

Author and Curator: Peer Gatter

Contributors: Riaz Karim Khan, Palwasha Kakakhel and Stéphane Herbert

Photographs:

Alamgir Khan: pp. 10/11, 27, 29, 38, 42, 44, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 71, 77, 81, 83, 88, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 127, 137, 138, 142, 143, 145, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 158.

Abdul Majeed Goraya: Cover & pp. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 46, 56, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74/75, 76, 79, 80, 82, 89, 92, 98, 118, 122, 123, 124/125, 126, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 150, 157, 159.

Other photographers: German Embassy p. 7; Peer Gatter p. 8; Thomas Sprinkart p. 9; Riaz Muhammad pp. 14/15; Gil Muhsin p. 34; Fayyaz Aziz/Reuters pp. 35, 147; Malik Haider p. 43; Riaz Anjum pp. 47, 48, 61, 90, 93; Hassan Ullah p. 54; IPR Archive/University of Peshawar & FATA Development Programme pp. 78, 84/85, 99, 111, 112, 113, 131; Rahat Shinwari p. 106; Jamaima Afridi p. 110; Xotic Media Production pp. 116, 117; Social Welfare Dept., KP p. 119; Danish Babar p. 144; Nasim Muhammad p. 146.

Acknowledgements: Asim Shafi, Joscha Oelgemöller, Mehvish Rashid, Zine Homburger, Shakeel Imtiaz, Fayyaz Khan, Zubair Kamal, Sameen Khan, Birgit Krammer, Muhammad Atif, Ulrich Hüser, Aamir Shahzad, Muddassar Alam, Maria Qureshi, Dr. Hassan Mehmood Khan, Asad Ullah, Muhammad Naeem, Zahid Ejaz, Faisal Ali, Rahim Khan, Muhammad Rafiq, Sohail Sylvester, Stephen Gatter, Christine Weseloh.

Responsible: Dr. Peer Gatter

Head of the FATA Development Programme, Peshawar and Islamabad.

The FATA Development Programme (FDP) is co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany. FDP has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The programme's political partner is the Planning and Development Department of the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Its contents are the sole responsibility of GIZ and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU or the BMZ.

Graphic Design: Globe Vision

Cover: Balola, a remote mountain village in Upper Prang Ghar of Mohmand District.



Co-funded by
the European Union



german
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by

giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

